

## INFORMATION REPORT

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- At a conference of chief editors held in the office of the Central Committee of the S.D. on 5 August 1952 Albert Schaefer, a member of the Agricultural Department of the Central Committee, stated that more than 100 cooperative farms had been established and that several hundred organizational committees were working on the establishment of more such farms. Schaefer said that many of the people still believe that there is a difference between these cooperative farms and the collectivization of farming. This opinion must not be attacked in the East German press. However, the party must be aware that this opinion is erroneous and that the same development is now taking place in East Germany that took place in the U.S.S.R. in 1927. According to Schaefer, the only difference between conditions which existed in the U.S.S.R. in 1927 and those prevailing now in East Germany lies in the fact that farmland in the U.S.S.R. was nationalized prior to collectivization whereas in Germany it will be nationalized only in the normal course of the collectivization. In this connection Schaefer denounced Slansky who had stressed the national form of fanicooperatives which had been organized in Czechoslovakia.
- In addition Schaefer made the following statements: Meetings, which envisage the establishment of farm cooperatives, must be approved by the Kreisrat, which will screen the members of the founding committee. Access to these meetings will be only by invitation. In several cases, expropriated farmers of large estates tried to become members of the executive board of farm cooperatives. No farmers of large estates or innkeepers must be admitted to meetings held in connection with the organization of farm cooperatives even though they be members of the S.D. All the members of farm cooperatives will have the same standing. The wives of the farmers must also acquire membership. There will be no hired farm hands in the cooperatives. Former farm workers, who became cooperative farmers, ceased to be members of the Union of Farm Workers within the FDGB. The former property of farmers, who were expropriated in the border zone for political reasons, became state property. Farm workers, who were put on these farms, had to turn over their property to the farm cooperatives except for some livestock. Making workers previously employed by farmers of large estates members of farm cooperatives represents political progress and a set-back for capitalism in the country. On the other hand, farm

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hands of nationalized estates must not become cooperative farmers, as this would mean a step in the wrong direction. The shortage of labor in the country must not be discussed in the press, as this is an argument put forth by the enemies of the working class. By a mechanization of farming methods, it will become possible to release even more farm workers for industrial production.

3. KED cadres will have to be formed in farm cooperatives. However, they should become active only after a certain stabilization period. Committees of women are also to be organized. They should assume their activities without delay, as clergymen oppose the farm cooperatives from their pulpits and try to influence the farmers' wives especially.

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